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Integrated management information system project

Ninth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the twelfth progress report of the Secretary-General on the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) project (A/55/632). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. As indicated in the report, IMIS is currently installed at Headquarters and at seven other duty stations (Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Beirut, Geneva, Nairobi, Santiago and Vienna) (see ibid., para. 2). IMIS components are also used by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Office for Project Services and the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO. In addition, the human resources application is used by the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

3. Chapter II of the report provides information on the status of application of the IMIS project in functional areas, including the central control of the project and its operational applications, human resources applications, financial and support service applications, payroll and related applications, such as rental subsidy and deductions, personal insurance and staff time and attendance, and reporting applications (paras. 3-37). Statistics on reports generated through the IMIS reporting facility as at 31 August 2000 and 31 August 1999 are provided (annex I), as well as the implementation dates of IMIS releases and usage and reporting statistics as at August 2000 for Headquarters and offices away from Headquarters (annex II).

4. The Advisory Committee notes from the summary of the report that, with the implementation of the IMIS payroll application in September 2000 at Headquarters and the implementation of additional functionalities, the development phase of IMIS has been completed. The Committee recalls that in the eleventh progress report on IMIS it was indicated that the implementation of releases 4 (payroll) and 5 (operational requirements) would be completed in New York by the first quarter of 2000 and at all major duty stations by December 2000 (A/54/474, summary). The Committee notes that the twelfth report on IMIS does not provide information on the status of implementation of release 5.

5. As indicated in the report, the current payroll system will be discontinued at Headquarters as from January 2001 for Headquarters staff but will continue to be used for UNDP and UNICEF staff until July 2001, when the IMIS payroll application will be implemented in those two organizations (A/55/632, para. 32). The implementation dates of payroll at offices away from Headquarters will be determined

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locally, in consultation with Headquarters, taking into account local conditions and constraints (see ibid., para. 34). The Advisory Committee was informed that the payroll application of IMIS relied on payroll data and processing logic that already existed in the established systems, which required lengthy verification, validation and clean-up.

6. The implementation of the financial application at offices away from Headquarters has been completed at most locations, and it is scheduled for implementation for the first half of 2001 in the two remaining offices, namely, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Office at Nairobi (see ibid., para. 18). The Advisory Committee notes that the implementation of financial applications has allowed for the standardization of processes across the Secretariat.

7. The Advisory Committee notes from the summary of the report that the Secretary-General plans to report on lessons learned and future developments in his next report on IMIS. **The Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will also address in his report the issue of the long-term strategy, as requested in previous reports of the Committee (see, for example, A/54/7/Add.4, para. 13).**

8. In this connection, the Advisory Committee welcomes the initial information provided on future developments (see A/55/632, paras. 55-57). The Committee notes that a project to upgrade the IMIS technical platform to enable moving the entire system application to the Web is expected to be completed by the end of 2001 and another project, to be initiated in 2001, would re-engineer the users' interface, with a view to making the system more user-friendly. The Committee welcomes these projects, which are expected to contribute to further streamlining workflow processes, simplifying and accelerating the processing of personnel and financial transactions and increasing the usage of the system as a management tool (see ibid., para. 57).

9. The Advisory Committee notes that the IMIS reporting facility has been used extensively by staff at Headquarters and other duty stations, including executive officers and programme managers. Improvements to the system have been introduced to meet the needs of offices away from Headquarters, and efforts have been made to strengthen training facilities. The IMIS service is progressively being integrated into the Information and Technology Services Division of the Office of Central Support Services (see ibid., paras. 35-46 and annex I). The Committee welcomes these developments.

10. **The Advisory Committee requests that, in the next report on IMIS, information be provided on progress made with regard to integration of IMIS with other programme budgeting and reporting systems being developed, including those being developed to support results-based budgeting techniques.**

11. **The Advisory Committee attaches great importance to the development of the required capacity to attain the stated objective of the Secretary-General to create an "electronic United Nations". The Committee reiterates its expectation that all efforts will be made to ensure wider use of the IMIS modules in the United Nations, including its funds and programmes.**

12. **In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes with concern that very limited progress has been reported on the implementation of IMIS in peacekeeping operations and the Tribunals, owing in part to the limited human and financial resources currently available to both the Department of Management and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for information technology (see ibid., paras. 47-51). The Committee recommends that the Secretary-General identify comprehensively the structural and financial constraints hampering progress in this regard and make such proposals as he deems necessary.**

13. The Advisory Committee notes that expenditures for IMIS amounted to $74,873,000 as at 31 October 2000 and that the total cost of the project was projected to remain within the budget estimates approved by the General Assembly ($77,578,900) (see ibid., paras. 58-62 and table 1).

14. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the twelfth progress report of the Secretary-General on IMIS (A/55/632).**